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Rep. Paul says families deserve tax relief *Families pays more in taxes than clothing, shelter, food combined*

WASHINGTON, DC -- US Rep. Ron Paul (R, TX) today reaffirmed his commitment to tax relief for American families by pledging to keep tax relief at the top of his legislative agenda. House Majority Leader Dick Armey (R, TX), Republican Conference Chairman J.C. Watts (R, OK), Rep. Jennifer Dunn (R, WA), Rep. Rick Lazio (R, NY), and many other members of Congress on Wednesday pledged to press for true tax relief.

Rep. Paul has consistently been recognized as the taxpayers' strongest advocate in Congress.

"Congress has a duty to return at least a portion of the \$4 trillion overcharge to the taxpayers who sent it to Washington," said Rep. Paul, referring to the so-called "surplus" being projected by many in Congress. "I disagree with those who say Americans don't care about tax relief. I know that the people in my district, and around the nation, had to work until May 10 last year just to pay their tax bill. And then another month or more to pay for the cost of the federal government's hidden taxes found in massive regulations." In fact, most Texans will work through early July to pay their tax bills and the cost of government regulations; leaving the pay period from mid-July through December to pay for food, shelter, clothing, transportation and education. Rep. Paul said he looked forward to working with Rep. Armey and other congressmen who recognize that cutting taxes must take a high position in the order of business for Congress this session. "At every opportunity this Congress should work to cut taxes, and cut those taxes across-the-board for all Americans," said Rep. Paul. "For too long, the American people have suffered under an oppressive tax burden." From marriage taxes to death taxes, the federal government takes too much money from Americans, Rep. Paul said. Last year, more than 20 percent of the Gross National Product (GNP) went to pay direct taxes. That is the highest percentage since World War II, and every indication is that that number is continuing to rise. "American families deserve to keep more money in their pockets, not have it taxed and squandered by Washington politicians and bureaucrats." Rep. Paul has introduced a number of tax-reduction measures, including legislation to allow parents to take tax credits of up to \$3,000 per year per child for educational needs, a \$1,000 tax credit for all teachers, and the repeal of President Clinton's 1993 tax on senior citizen's Social Security benefits.

